

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-31. (canceled)

32. (new) A method for increasing the synthesis of skin lipids comprising:

administering to a subject a composition comprising at least one plant oil product selected from the group consisting of oil distillates of plant oil, unsaponifiable materials from plant oil, furan lipids of plant oil and mixtures thereof.

33. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the skin lipids are lipids of the epidermal skin barrier.

34. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein the lipids of the epidermal skin barrier are selected from the group consisting of cholesterol, cholesterol sulfate, ceramides 1 and 2 and mixtures thereof.

35. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the unsaponifiable materials from plant oil are rich in tocopherols and/or phytosterols.

36. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the oil distillates of plant oil are rich in tocopherols and/or phytosterols.

37. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the oil distillates of plant oil are oil distillates of sunflower oil.

38. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the unsaponifiable materials from plant oil are unsaponifiable materials selected from the group consisting of avocado, soybean and mixtures thereof.

39. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the unsaponifiable material from plant oil is a mixture of unsaponifiable material from avocado oil and unsaponifiable material from soybean oil, the weight ratio of unsaponifiable material from avocado oil to unsaponifiable material from soybean oil being between about 0.1 and about 9.

40. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the furan lipids of plant oil are furan lipids of avocado.

41. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the plant oil product is present in an amount of between about 0.01% and 100% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

42. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is administered topically, orally, enterally or parenterally.

43. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is applied to the skin, the neighboring mucous membranes and/or the integuments.

44. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat dry skin.

45. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat skin that has been subjected to actinic radiation.

46. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat skin that has been subjected to UV radiation.

47. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat ichthyosis.

48. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat acne.

49. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat xerosis.

50. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat atopic dermatitis.

51. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat skin disorders caused by a reduction in the content of skin lipids.

52. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat skin disorders caused by a

reduction in the content of skin lipids of the epidermal skin barrier.

53. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat skin that is sensitive, irritated or reactive.

54. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat corneocyte cohesion disorders.

55. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat desquamation of the skin.

56. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition is adapted to treat pruritus.

57. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the composition further comprises a cosmetic, pharmaceutical or dermatological composition.

58. (new) The method of claim 57 wherein the cosmetic, pharmaceutical or dermatological composition comprises an oily solution, a water-in-oil emulsion, an oil-in-water emulsion, a micro-emulsion, an oily gel, an anhydrous gel or a dispersion of vesicles, microcapsules or microparticles.

59. (new) A method for increasing the synthesis of skin lipids comprising:

administering to a subject a composition comprising at least one plant oil product selected from the group consisting of oil distillates of plant oil, unsaponifiable materials from plant oil, furan lipids of plant oil and mixtures thereof wherein the plant oil product comprises a food additive for humans and/or animals.

60. (new) The method of claim 59 wherein the plant oil product is present in a food in a proportion of between about 0.1% and about 20% by weight relative to the total weight of the food.

**RESPONSE**

This paper is in response to the Official Action mailed November 3, 2003. A petition for a three-month extension of time, extending the time to respond from February 3, 2004 until May 3, 2004 is enclosed herewith and incorporated by reference.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 has not been recognized in the Office Action Summary. Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application claims priority from FR 99 11844. A copy of the International Application has been communicated by the International Bureau.

To address the Examiner's rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicants have canceled claims 1-31, and in their place, introduced claims 32-60 that contain the recitations of claims 1-31. No new matter is included in the amendments. The new claims comply with acceptable U.S. patent practice, e.g., the grammatical and idiomatic errors are no longer present. Additionally, Applicants have strived to establish and maintain proper dependent claim recitations. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming a use without setting forth any steps involved in the process. As mentioned above, these claims have been canceled and Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims recite proper process claims under § 101. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has interpreted claim 1 as reading on a method of making a composition containing at least one plant oil product chosen from the group consisting of oil distillates of plant oil, unsaponifiable materials from plant oil, furan lipids of plant oil and mixtures thereof; and, wherein said composition comprises a cosmetically, pharmaceutically or dermatologically

acceptable medium. In light of the Examiner's interpretation, claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by *Laigneau et al.*, *Montaudoin et al.*, *Rancurel*, *De Froment*, *Huber et al.*, *Khaiat*, *Arom-Bruntiere et al.*, *Laur et al.*, *Fabre et al.*, *Kaneda et al.*, *Moy*, and *Courtin*. Applicants appreciate the Examiner interpreting the now canceled claims, however, Applicants respectfully submit that as rewritten, claims 32-60 are patentable over the references cited.

Each reference cited by the Examiner is directed generally to a method of making a composition using a variety of plant oils. *Laigneau et al.* teaches a composition comprising the unsaponifiable fraction of sesame oil mixed with one or more unsaponifiable fractions from other vegetable oils; the composition of *Montaudoin et al.* uses lupin oil optionally with wheat germ oil; *Rancurel* teaches a composition comprising a fraction of soya oil and/or avocado oil; *De Froment* teaches a composition that uses unsaponifiable materials from lucerne oil; the composition of *Huber et al.* uses avocado containing lipid furans; *Khaiat* teaches a composition that has an unsaponifiable fraction of soya oil or karate nut butter, a fatty acid triglyceride, and a hydrolysate of soya or wheat proteins; the composition of *Arom-Bruntiere et al.* includes a water-in-oil emulsion comprising an unsaponifiable fraction of plant oil containing stigmasterol and alpha-tocopherol; *Laur et al.* discloses a method of preparing fat fractions of shea butter enriched with unsaponifiable materials and tocopherols; the composition of *Fabre et al.* includes an argan oil enriched in unsaponifiable materials; *Kaneda et al.* teaches a composition containing a nonsaponifiable fraction of soybean oil; the composition of *Moy* includes unsaponifiable avocado seed lipids; and *Courtin* teaches a composition comprising unsaponifiable materials obtained from soya oil and avocado oil.

However, there is no reference that teaches each and every element of claim 1 or 3. None of the references cited teaches, or even suggests, administering a composition as claimed for increasing the synthesis of skin lipids. Indeed, each of the references is silent with respect to the effect of the various oils on skin lipids. Moreover, none of the references cited discloses that the synthesis of the skin lipids can be stimulated so as to be able to restore the skin barrier function of the epidermis, and/or to combat various skin disorders that are caused by a reduction in the synthesis of skin lipids. Thus, the references cited by the Examiner cannot anticipate the claimed invention.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lack of antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated in light of the amendments made. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-31 stand objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. As mentioned above, Applicants have rewritten claims 4-31 so that they comply with proper U.S. patent practice, obviating the instant objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, further and favorable consideration of claims 32-60 and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to these claims are earnestly solicited.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, the Examiner is authorized to charge any such fee to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: May 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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